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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

I. Introduction and Mission priorities

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and requested that I report at regular intervals on the implementation of its mandate. It covers the activities of UNMIK, and developments related thereto, from 16 January to 15 April 2015.

2. The priorities of the Mission remain to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region. In furtherance of its goals, UNMIK continues its constructive engagement with Pristina and Belgrade, all communities in Kosovo and regional and international actors. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) continue to perform their roles within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) continues to be present in Kosovo, in line with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 26 November 2008 (S/PRST/2008/44) and my report of 24 November 2008 (S/2008/692). The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes work closely with the Mission.

II. Key political developments

3. The major political developments in Kosovo during the reporting period centred on the consolidation of the new Kosovo government and the resumption of the high-level dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, which was facilitated by the European Union. Although the overall trends continued to be generally positive, both processes faced challenges. Other challenges faced by the new government in Pristina included the violent protests orchestrated by the opposition groups in Pristina, the suspension of the participation of the Serbian Civic Initiative in the government and Assembly of Kosovo following the announcement that the Minister for Communities and Returns, a Kosovo Serb, was no longer part of the government, and continuing irregular migration attempts from Kosovo. The agreement on the integration of judiciary structures in northern Kosovo, reached on 9 February in Brussels, was a new important step in the European Union-facilitated dialogue, although its implementation has been marked by delays. However, the government has remained focused on its ambitious plans for reform and

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development across the range of fundamental matters relating to the economy and the rule of law. Its programme of activities for the period 2015-2018, adopted on 25 February, focused on five priorities: sustainable economic development, employment and social welfare, the rule of law, the fulfilment of all criteria linked to Kosovo's European Union integration agenda, and reforms in the education and health-care systems. In addition, and albeit belatedly, the Assembly of Kosovo has taken key actions on property matters, on a future specialist court to try cases investigated by the European Union Special Investigative Task Force, and on measures to prevent the participation of persons from Kosovo in foreign conflicts.

4. On 14 January, the President of the Assembly of Kosovo presented a draft law on the amendment and supplementation of the Law on Publicly Owned Enterprises. The Government of Serbia and 2,000 Kosovo Serb employees protested against the draft law, which was subsequently withdrawn. The law would have affected the status of the Trepca industrial enterprise, a major mining complex with facilities and employees in southern and northern Kosovo, which is subject to ongoing ownership disputes. On 19 January, an alternative law was adopted, which extended the legal deadline for the reorganization of the Trepca industrial enterprise for an 18-month period, extendable to 36 months, effectively preventing its liquidation and granting time to all parties concerned to address the issue.

5. In my previous report, I informed the Security Council of the stoning of a bus bringing Kosovo Serb internally displaced persons to Gjakovë/Đakovica for Orthodox Christmas on 6 January. Following public condemnation of the incident by the Minister for Communities and Returns and leader of the Serbian Civic Initiative, Aleksandar Jablanović, the opposition parties launched a sustained public campaign demanding his dismissal as Minister. Both the above-mentioned issue and the handling of the Trepca draft law by the government led the opposition parties, in particular Vetëvendosje supported by the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, to organize public protests against the government on 24 and 27 January. Parts of the protesting crowds became violent and caused significant damage to public and private buildings in the centre of Pristina. The protest on 27 January was particularly violent, with 170 people requiring medical attention, including 107 police officers. The Kosovo police responded well in the face of determined and violent protestors; 160 persons were arrested and subsequently released. On 3 February, the Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, announced that Mr. Jablanović was no longer part of the government.

6. In addition to the above-mentioned events, members of the Serbian Civic Initiative officially suspended their participation in both the coalition government and the Assembly of Kosovo. As at the end of the reporting period, they had not yet returned, although some had participated individually in a limited number of official meetings and had held frequent informal consultations throughout the period with leaders in Pristina.

7. On 18 March, the first joint meeting of Serb-majority municipal assemblies was convened in Graçanicë/Gračanica. Around 200 Kosovo Serb representatives from the central and local institutions of Kosovo, members of the interim municipal councils funded by Belgrade and the Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia participated. The conclusions adopted expressed general dissatisfaction with the situation in Kosovo, and demanded the implementation of agreements reached between Belgrade and Pristina in the

framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue, as well as between the Serbian Civic Initiative and other members of the coalition government.

8. On 9 February, the Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, and the Kosovo Prime Minister, Mr. Mustafa, met in Brussels for the first time. The meeting was facilitated by the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and marked the resumption of the high-level Belgrade-Pristina dialogue. The discussions achieved concrete results, the most important of which was an agreement on the integration of the Kosovo judiciary (see section V of the present report). In the context of further normalization of relations, on 26 March Mr. Vučić initiated a direct telephone conversation with Mr. Mustafa, marking a new level of cooperation between the two leaders. The call was the first time the two had made contact without the presence of an international mediator since they both took office in 2014. On 26 and 27 March, the High Representative Mogherini visited Pristina and Belgrade to discuss the state of play and next steps in the European Union-facilitated dialogue and in their respective European paths.

9. The major spike in irregular migration from Kosovo to Western Europe during the previous reporting period continued until early February. On 5 February, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted a resolution on illegal migration in which it outlined measures to be taken by the Kosovo government to address the root causes and implications of the phenomenon. Such measures included promoting economic development, establishing a fund to prevent illegal migration, enacting changes in fiscal policy, concluding agreements with European Union countries on seasonal employment, and combating the criminal networks of human traffickers. A number of measures were taken subsequently at the regional level, under the coordination of the European Police Office and the judicial cooperation unit of the European Union, that led to the dismantling of criminal networks smuggling migrants from Kosovo. The measures included meetings in Belgrade with the participation of police officials from a number of European countries and Kosovo. The disruption of the criminal networks, in conjunction with information campaigns conducted in Kosovo and affected Western European countries, has significantly decreased migration since February. On 11 March, the European Parliament adopted a resolution in which it stressed the need for the Kosovo authorities to step up actions against criminal groups that smuggle migrants and to address the root causes of the problem.

10. On 12 March, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted a law on the prohibition of joining armed conflicts outside the State territory, marking a significant step forward in efforts to counter the recruitment of individuals from Kosovo to fight in conflicts abroad, primarily in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. The Law provides for strong penalties for the organization, management of, recruitment for and training in any activities for that purpose, as well as for incitement to fight in foreign conflicts. On 25 March, the President of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, signed the Law, which then entered into force. The Kosovo authorities also established an inter-agency task force for the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization.

11. On 25 March, alongside Western Balkan countries, Serbia participated in a ministerial conference hosted by Kosovo in Pristina on regional economic cooperation under the so-called Gymnich Formula. High-level European Union officials, including the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and

Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, also attended and reiterated the commitment of the European Union to continue to invest in road and rail infrastructure throughout the region. The ministers agreed on a joint statement referring to further acceleration of the "Berlin process", in reference to the first Conference on the western Balkans, held in Berlin on 28 August 2014, and a list of specific projects.

12. On 7 March, the government of Kosovo adopted the draft constitutional amendments required to establish a specialist court to try cases arising from the findings of the European Union Special Investigative Task Force. On 9 March, the President of the Assembly of Kosovo referred the proposed amendments to the Kosovo Constitutional Court for a preliminary review. On 15 April, the Court concluded that the amendments were admissible and in conformity with the Kosovo Constitution. The President of Kosovo has called on the Assembly to complete the remaining steps required from Kosovo for the establishment of the specialist court.

III. Northern Kosovo

13. In northern Kosovo, the political focus continued to be centred on the disagreement between the authorities in Pristina and the four municipal authorities of northern Kosovo over the finalization of the municipal budgets. There were also a number of largely peaceful protests related to political and socioeconomic issues.

14. The stand-off between Pristina and the four municipal authorities continued because Pristina's requirement that the northern municipalities readopt their municipal budgets in line with Kosovo legislation remained unmet. The key point of contention regards the inclusion of expenditures for health and education, which have hitherto been funded by Belgrade. Full agreement over the issue is likely to be contingent on the establishment of the association/community of Serb municipalities. On 26 February, the Ministry of Local Government Administration sent a letter to each of the four mayors requesting that the municipal assemblies approve the Pristina-revised budgets by 1 March or face dissolution. Although the municipal assemblies have not been dissolved, in spite of their failure to meet the deadline, the accounts of the four northern municipalities have been frozen.

15. As in past years, the resumption of house construction works in the Kroi i Vitakut/Brdjani neighbourhood in North Mitrovica was marked by inter-ethnic tensions. On 18 and 20 March, attempts by Kosovo Albanians to resume housing construction in the area triggered Kosovo Serb protests, leading to the erection of roadblocks and a confrontation between the two communities. The Kosovo police intervened and defused the situation. The mayors of North and South Mitrovica subsequently reached an agreement to temporarily halt all construction in the area, establish working groups, and explore, in coordination with the central authorities, options for a sustainable solution to the long-standing issue.

16. The prevailing socioeconomic situation in northern Kosovo has also amplified the concerns of the 762 employees of the Serbian civil protection service on their integration into Kosovo institutions. So far, Pristina has offered 550 posts in government ministries and agencies and public companies in northern Kosovo, which would be financed from the development fund established for northern Kosovo in line with the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013.

17. On 4 March, the Belgrade-operated electricity provider, Elektrokosmet, commenced collective power cuts in certain areas of northern Kosovo in which the majority of consumers had accumulated outstanding bills since 1 January 2015. The collective cuts were discontinued on 25 March. However, individual consumer power cuts began on 6 April, affecting businesses and consumers without meters.

18. UNMIK continued to facilitate meetings of the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a Serbian forestry company on the integration of its employees into the Kosovo system.

IV. Security

19. The overall security situation in Kosovo remained stable, with the exception of the violent protests in Pristina referred to in paragraph 5 of the present report, and a series of violent incidents in North Mitrovica as described below.

20. On 16 January, a EULEX monitoring, mentoring and advising team resumed its activities, which had been suspended since April 2014 for security reasons, at the Zubin Potok police station.

21. On 19 January, an estimated 2,000 Kosovo Serbs staged protests by blocking roads in Leposaviq/Leposavić, Zvečan/Zveçan and Zubin Potok, over fears that the Trepca mining complex would be privatized or nationalized by the government of Kosovo. On 20 January, around 300 Kosovo Albanian miners in South Mitrovica staged a two-day strike, demanding clarification from the management of the mining complex on the amendments made to the Law on the Reorganization of Certain Enterprises and Their Assets, adopted by the Kosovo Assembly on 19 January. The strike ended after intervention by the municipal and the Pristina authorities.

22. On 18 and 23 March, around 250 protestors from across Kosovo, including former officers of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia, demonstrated peacefully in North Mitrovica, calling for their integration into the Kosovo police or reinstatement into the Ministry of the Interior. On 9 March, around 500 people, including the mayors of the four northern municipalities and the Kosovo Minister for Local Government Administration, protested peacefully in North Mitrovica against the alleged plans of the Kosovo government to introduce rotations for the commanding staff of the Kosovo police in northern Kosovo.

23. On 9 April, a 16-year-old Kosovo Serb was stabbed at the main bridge in North Mitrovica. On 10 April, a Kosovo Albanian male disappeared in North Mitrovica after reportedly falling into the Iběr/Ibar River in unclear circumstances. At the request of the Kosovo police, KFOR authorized Kosovo Security Force divers to conduct a search and rescue operation in the river, which, however, has not been successful thus far. On 13 April, in North Mitrovica, three Kosovo Serbs suffered firearm injuries as a result of shooting by an unknown suspect. In another incident, shots were fired at a Kosovo police vehicle parked at the North Mitrovica hospital, causing material damage. In Zubin Potok, a hand grenade was thrown into a parking lot of the Kosovo police station, damaging three police vehicles. A note accusing EULEX, the Kosovo police and "domestic traitors" was found at the crime scene. The Kosovo President condemned the violent incidents, as did senior

officials of the Government of Serbia. The mayors of North and South Mitrovica met on 11 April to discuss the security situation. They called for calm and restraint among the local population and agreed to call an urgent meeting with the Kosovo police and international representatives to discuss the security situation.

24. Although the number of potentially ethnically-motivated incidents has decreased from that of the previous reporting period, there has been an increase in the number of incidents affecting unoccupied properties owned by non-majority communities.

V. Rule of law

25. UNMIK continued to monitor activities and exercise some responsibilities in the area of the rule of law, and maintained technical cooperation with relevant institutions in Pristina and Belgrade. UNMIK continued to facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance from countries that have not recognized Kosovo and to provide document-certification services both to Kosovo residents and at the request of non-recognizing States, primarily for the certification of civil status and for academic and pension documents. A total of 498 such documents were processed from 16 January to 14 March 2015.

26. UNMIK also continued to facilitate communications between the Kosovo authorities and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and its member countries. During the reporting period, UNMIK received 14 requests for international wanted notices and issued 32 INTERPOL red notices. The Kosovo Minister for Internal Affairs participated in the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism in Washington, D.C. in February 2015, where he met with the Secretary General of INTERPOL.

27. On 25 March, the Kosovo authorities issued a call for applications for judicial positions in the Basic Court of Mitrovica to be established in accordance with the European Union-facilitated agreement of 9 February on the integration of judiciary structures in northern Kosovo. The agreement, which was based on the principles agreed during talks in Brussels on 12 February 2014, provides for a single Basic Court of Mitrovica presided over by a Kosovo Serb judge, with one building in North Mitrovica and another in South Mitrovica. On 26 February, the Assembly of Kosovo elected three new members of the Kosovo Judicial Council for a five-year mandate. The election ended a deadlock in the Judicial Council that had lasted six months owing to the lack of a quorum. One of the selected candidates, however, subsequently came under investigation for alleged professional misconduct. The investigation is ongoing.

28. During the reporting period, concerns were expressed about the transparency of procurement activities by Kosovo institutions. The annual report for 2014 of the procurement review body, which was published on 9 March, cited 537 cases of violation of the law, including irregularities in bid evaluations, decisions on bid winners, tender dossiers and technical requirements, as well as unequal treatment of bidders. An annual report issued by the independent Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency also indicated an increase in criminal charges, attributable largely to the non-declaration or false declaration of property. The Kosovo Minister of Finance stressed the need for amendments to the Law on Public Procurement and measures to ensure stricter adherence to professional ethics by public officials.

29. On 4 February, the Kosovo Memory Book database was presented by the Humanitarian Law Center in Pristina. The database, which aims to document all casualties from the conflict from the period 1998-2000, contains the names of 13,535 persons, civilian and military, who were allegedly killed during the conflict. The Memory Book was also presented in Belgrade.

30. As at 15 March, a total of 1,655 persons remained listed as missing from the Kosovo conflict, and UNMIK continued to support and encourage progress on the issue. On 29 January, the Pristina and Belgrade delegations in the Working Group on Missing Persons held a meeting in Rudnica, central Serbia, at Belgrade's initiative. They discussed next steps with regard to two possible mass grave sites in Serbia at Kozarevo (Novi Pazar) and in Rudnica.

31. In April, an independent expert who had been appointed in November 2014 to review the implementation of the mandate of EULEX with a particular focus on the handling of recent allegations (see S/2015/74, para. 28), submitted his report to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The report, which is publicly available, was transmitted to the European Parliament and European Union member States. Although the report points out management shortcomings, among other things, it also states that there was no cover-up attempt as had been alleged.

VI. Returns and communities

32. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered 36 individual voluntary returnees to Kosovo during January, February and March 2015, including 25 Kosovo Serbs, 8 Kosovo Roma and 3 Kosovo Gorani. As at March, the total number of voluntary minority returns since 2000 was 25,896, and the total number of Kosovo internally displaced persons was 17,086 according to estimates by UNHCR. Of the latter figure, 571 were living in 34 collective centres in Kosovo. UNHCR continued to provide support to individual community members in obtaining personal documentation and resolving issues relating to their civil status. During January, February and March, 199 individuals were assisted by UNHCR in obtaining civil documentation.

33. During the reporting period, efforts continued to advance voluntary returns to Kosovo, including through local mechanisms. In a number of municipalities, including Pejë/Peć, Obiliq/Obilić, Istog/Istok and Klinë/Klina, municipal working groups and task forces on returns reviewed and approved lists of potential beneficiaries within the framework of the fourth phase of the European Union Return and Reintegration housing project, which is co-financed by the European Union and the Ministry of Communities and Returns and is being implemented by the International Organization for Migration.

34. Unresolved property rights remained a key impeding factor to progress in voluntary returns and intercommunity relations in Kosovo. According to the OSCE report, entitled "Review of illegal reoccupation cases in Kosovo", more than 95 per cent of the 326 cases referred to the prosecution offices by the Kosovo Property Agency between 2008 and 2013 involved properties owned by Kosovo Serbs and illegally reoccupied by Kosovo Albanians following evictions. The report outlined serious shortcomings in the response of the authorities to the cases, including by the Kosovo Property Agency, the offices of public prosecutors and the courts.

35. On 3 April, the Kosovo government approved a draft concept document concerning the application procedures for members of non-majority communities seeking employment in Kosovo institutions. The document is aimed at preparing the ground for the implementation of legal provisions concerning the university in North Mitrovica, including the establishment of a legal framework for the validation of diplomas issued by the university for the purpose of employment in Kosovo public institutions.

VII. Cultural and religious heritage

36. On 30 January, two years after the adoption of a law calling for its establishment, the council for the protection of the historic village of Hoçë e Madhe/Velika Hoča, in the Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, was finally established. On 5 March, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo facilitated a meeting of members of the newly established council and members of the Council on the Cultural Heritage of the Historic Centre of Prizren to share experiences and discuss achievements and challenges regarding the functioning of the councils.

37. The Implementation Monitoring Council, which is co-chaired by the European Union and the Kosovo authorities and includes representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Serbian Orthodox Church, the European Union and OSCE, continued to meet during the reporting period. On 5 March, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning informed the municipality of Deçan/Dečani that the Serbian Orthodox Church had agreed to regularize the ongoing illegal construction in the special protective zone around the Visoki Dečani Monastery, provided that no new structures were added to the existing ones.

38. On the basis of a joint inspection and recommendation by members of the Implementation Monitoring Council on 27 February, the Church of Christ the Saviour, adjacent to the University of Pristina campus, was again sealed off in order to prevent dwelling by squatters and further abuse by others.

39. The number of incidents affecting religious sites increased slightly during the reporting period, with a total of 23 incidents. Serbian Orthodox Church and Islamic religious and cultural heritage sites were targeted in 14 and 2 incidents respectively, while such sites of other religions were targeted in the remaining seven incidents.

VIII. Human rights

40. On 19 February, the Agency for Gender Equality of the Office of the Prime Minister presented a study on the participation, role and position of women in central and local institutions and political parties in Kosovo. Published with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the study was produced within the framework of the Kosovo action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Among other measures, the study recommended the improvement of the representation of women at the decision-making level. The Agency also hosted, on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, a round-table discussion on women's property rights with a focus on a new draft administrative instruction for the registration of property in the name of both spouses. According to the Kosovo

Cadastral Agency, property ownership among women in Kosovo, at approximately 8 per cent, remains significantly lower than in other parts of the region. On 1 April, UNMIK organized a televised round-table discussion in South Mitrovica on women and entrepreneurship, with the participation of Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb women. The event, which was broadcast by TV Mitrovica, highlighted women's concerns related to corruption, difficulties in accessing financial credit and achieving property ownership and the need to foster an entrepreneurial spirit among the new generation of women.

41. On 20 March, the Kosovo President announced a decision to extend the one-year mandate of the national council for the survivors of sexual violence during the war for an unspecified duration. Established in March 2014 and led by the President, the national council provides support for the implementation of the amendments to the Law on the Status and the Rights of the Martyrs, Invalids, Veterans, Members of Kosovo Liberation Army, Sexual Violence Victims of the War, Civilian Victims and Their Families which were adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo in March 2014.

42. On 12 March, the Office of the Language Commissioner in the Office of the Prime Minister presented the key findings of a comprehensive study on the status of the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages in Kosovo. The study concluded that limited financial, technical and human resources and the lack of awareness of the legal framework continued to hinder the full implementation of the Law in public institutions. The study also noted an increasing trend towards monolingualism among civil servants employed within Kosovo institutions.

43. Owing to financial constraints, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) closed its only office in Kosovo on 28 February 2015. As at 1 March, OHCHR is continuing its engagement through the participation of a local human rights officer in joint human rights programmes with other United Nations entities in Kosovo, with the support of OHCHR headquarters.

44. During the reporting period, UNMIK liaised with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on issues related to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Kosovo, as set forth in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and in the follow-up to a visit to Kosovo by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances from 24 to 26 June 2014.

45. The Human Rights Advisory Panel, which was established in 2006 to investigate individual allegations of human rights violations committed by UNMIK, continued its activities and issued its annual report for 2014 in March. As at the end of March 2015, the Panel has closed 454 cases, while 73 cases remain outstanding.

IX. Observations

46. I welcome the resumption of high-level meetings in Brussels in the context of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between the Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, and the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa. The spirit of constructive cooperation and the emphasis on common interests remain encouraging, and the agreement on the integration of the judiciary in northern Kosovo, reached on 9 February, demonstrates the commitment of both sides to the implementation of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013 and to the continuation of the dialogue. Both Belgrade

and Pristina should take all necessary steps to faithfully implement the entirety of the agreements reached thus far.

47. I note the steps taken by the Kosovo authorities towards the establishment of the specialist court to try cases arising from the findings of the European Union Special Investigative Task Force. It is essential that the next steps in the process, which are crucial to the future of Kosovo, proceed expeditiously, and I urge the political leaders in Kosovo to redouble their efforts to that end. In spite of the many challenges presented to the new Kosovo government during its first 100 days, I commend the clear determination it has shown to pursue a course of necessary economic reform, respect for the rule of law and respectful engagement to promote reconciliation among Kosovo's communities. I strongly urge all political actors in Kosovo to refrain from the use of violence as a means to pursue political objectives, and to resolve their differences through peaceful means.

48. Just as importantly, it is crucial that both Belgrade and Pristina move forward in the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Agreement of 19 April 2013. The core issue in this respect remains the establishment of the association/community of Serb municipalities. I urge political leaders in both Belgrade and Pristina to address the matter with urgency in consultation with the Kosovo Serbs and their political leaders, whose interests will be directly affected by the creation of the association/community. It is also essential that the issue of the resumption of Kosovo Serb participation in the Kosovo government and Assembly of Kosovo is resolved expeditiously.

49. Efforts should also continue towards the consolidation of stability in northern Kosovo and the promotion of strengthened institutional relations and cooperation between the local municipal authorities and the authorities in Pristina. To that end, both the Kosovo authorities and municipal leaders in northern Kosovo should engage constructively with one another to resolve the dispute over the municipal budgets and ensure continued delivery of basic community services. It also remains important that security incidents, such as those in North Mitrovica in April, are addressed promptly and do not affect intercommunity relations. Sustained efforts to promote respect for the rule of law and genuine long-term reconciliation among Kosovo's communities should also continue.

50. I welcome the enhanced regional cooperation to address the worrying trend of irregular migration from Kosovo in recent months. The concerted efforts by law enforcement authorities from a number of European countries, in cooperation with Belgrade and Pristina, are of particular note. However, further and longer-term efforts should be undertaken to improve the socioeconomic conditions in Kosovo and to address other causes of the recent population outflow.

51. I also welcome the legal initiatives taken by the Kosovo authorities to address the complex issue of radicalization and violent extremism.

52. I express my gratitude to my Special Representative, Farid Zarif, for his commitment to and effective leadership of the Mission, and to all UNMIK staff for their dedicated service. I also thank our partners on the ground, including KFOR, EULEX, OSCE, the European Union and members of the United Nations Kosovo Team, for their cooperation and valuable contribution.

Annex I

Report of the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Secretary-General on the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo covering the period from 16 January to 15 April 2015

1. Summary

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) continued to undertake monitoring, mentoring and advising activities and to implement its executive functions in line with its mandate regarding the rule of law. Verdicts were pronounced in cases relating to corruption and the smuggling of migrants through Serbia to Hungary and other European Union member States. In addition, a number of organized crime trials started, including one involving an alleged international narcotics kingpin. The strike action taken by local first instance judges in March blocked the processing of many cases during that month, including for panels with EULEX judges.

In terms of monitoring, mentoring and advising activities, the Mission continued to advise the authorities in Kosovo on irregular migration. The phenomenon peaked during January and February but, following actions taken by the Kosovo authorities the number of irregular migrants has decreased drastically. EULEX continued to monitor the recruitment process for a new Chief State Prosecutor and has expressed its concern over the delay in the appointment of the selected candidate. The lack of a quorum at the Kosovo Judicial Council, which lasted for almost six months, was finally resolved through the election of three new members.

In northern Kosovo, the security situation remained relatively calm. The Kosovo police responded professionally to the instances that threatened to destabilize the relative calm (tensions in the ethnically mixed neighbourhood of Kroi i Vitakut/Brdjani in Mitrovica North, protests by some former members of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia who had not been integrated). EULEX continued its outreach activities to increase the familiarity of the local population and leadership with the Mission's mandate and activities.

Significant progress was achieved in the European Union-facilitated dialogue; agreements were reached on justice integration and on the integration of the Serbia-sponsored civil protection service. Other positive developments included the first-ever meeting of the Serbian Police Director and the Kosovo Police Director, held in Belgrade, and the third central level meeting on the implementation of the agreement on the integrated management of crossing points, held at the Kosovo Police Headquarters in Pristina, both of which were facilitated by EULEX.

2. EULEX activities, January to April 2015

2.1 Executive

War crimes

During the reporting period, panels of three EULEX judges at Mitrovica Basic Court continued trials in three ongoing war crimes cases. All cases are led by EULEX prosecutors from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office.

Main developments in organized crime and corruption

On 16 January, a panel of one local and two EULEX judges started the trial against an alleged narcotics kingpin at Pristina Basic Court amid significant press interest. The defendant is charged with organized crime, drug trafficking and aggravated murder. The case is led by a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office.

On 16 January, a EULEX prosecutor from the Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment against seven defendants for alleged corruption in a tender process for security services at the public utility company then named Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK). The alleged value of the damage to KEK exceeds €6 million.

On 19 January, a EULEX prosecutor from the Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment against five persons, of whom three are officials within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and two are engaged in business. The defendants are charged with various offences including organized crime and abuse of official position or authority. The allegations concern a tender process for the supply of arms, ammunition and surveillance equipment to the Kosovo police. There is, however, nothing to suggest that the Kosovo police is implicated.

On 22 January, a panel of one local and two EULEX judges pronounced the judgement in a case against eight defendants charged with smuggling of migrants from Albania and Kosovo through Hungary to other European Union member States. All defendants pleaded guilty. Seven persons received suspended sentences ranging from one year and six months to two years, while one was sentenced to two years and four months imprisonment.

On 1 April, the trial started against six defendants charged with organized crime, smuggling of migrants and money-laundering. The case is led by a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office.

Other serious crimes cases

On 21 January, a panel of two local judges and one EULEX judge sentenced a bank director to three years of imprisonment for fraud, abuse of official position and falsification of documents. A suspended sentence of 10 months was imposed against another defendant. The defendants were also ordered to pay €200,000 and €5,000 respectively in compensation.

On 23 January, a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment on terrorism-related charges against five defendants. The defendants were arrested as a result of a Kosovo police investigation for aggravated assault committed against two Christian missionaries in Pristina in 2013.

On 4 February, a EULEX majority panel at Pristina Basic Court sentenced two defendants to one year and three months of imprisonment respectively for trading in influence. They were also obliged to pay €200,000 as compensation. In 2009, they had received €200,000 for exerting influence over the decision-making of officials from the privatization agency in a tendering process. The case was led by a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office.

On 6 February, a panel of one local judge and two EULEX judges at Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court started the trial against a defendant who is suspected of having shot and seriously injured several police officers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia during two attacks in 2004, which resulted in grievous bodily harm, as well as of illegal possession of a large quantity of weaponry. The case is led by a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office.

On 19 March, a panel of two local judges and one EULEX judge at the Court of Appeals finalized the verdict in a migrant smuggling case. The Court of Appeals found substantial violations of the criminal procedure in the verdict of Prizren Basic Court in 2013 and ordered a retrial.

On 25 March, Kosovo police arrested 10 suspects during searches at six locations in the municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn, during a joint Kosovo police/EULEX operation. The searches relate to an ongoing investigation by EULEX prosecutors at Mitrovica Basic Prosecution Office into extortion, usury, tax evasion and prohibited trade. The following day, a EULEX judge held a detention hearing of the suspects and three of the defendants were ordered detained on remand for one month.

On 2 April, a panel of two local judges and one EULEX judge at Prizren Basic Court sentenced a defendant to seven years' imprisonment and ordered him to pay a fine of €25,000 for unauthorized possession, distribution and sale of dangerous narcotics and psychotropic substances.

Allegations found in the report of the Special Rapporteur for the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe

The allegations made in the 2011 report of the Special Rapporteur for the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Dick Marty, entitled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo", continued to be investigated during the reporting period by the Special Investigative Task Force. The inquiry conducted by the Task Force, which was formed in 2011, seeks to determine the individual criminal liability of those most responsible for the actions alleged in the report.

Engagement is ongoing with injured parties, victim advocacy groups and individuals in order to gather information relevant to the investigation. Cooperation with judicial and law-enforcement authorities in the region and beyond remains satisfactory. The Task Force looks forward to sustained cooperation from all parties as investigative and operational activities continue to make progress.

The Kosovo government adopted the necessary constitutional amendments, on 7 March. The draft amendments were then transmitted by the Speaker of the Kosovo Assembly to the Kosovo Constitutional Court. On 15 April, the Constitutional Court issued its assessment of the amendments and found them in compliance with

constitutional safeguards for the protection of human rights. The build-up of the planning team for the specialist chambers continues.

Department of Forensic Medicine

On 9 February, EULEX forensic experts at the Department of Forensic Medicine executed an order of the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office and exhumed a body in Mitrovica North. In March, EULEX forensic anthropologists at the Department started delivering practical training in anthropology to two local medical doctors. EULEX is also training local forensic doctors in performing autopsies in missing persons' cases. Two graves were exhumed and both autopsies were performed jointly with local doctors. EULEX also conducted field operations in the Suhareka/Suva Reka area and a site visit in the Pejë/Peć region to explore a possible grave site. EULEX sent 104 bone samples for DNA analysis to the International Committee on Missing Persons, based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which currently only has a budget to process around 20 of these. On 2 April, the Department met the families of 28 victims found in Raška, Serbia, in 2014 to officially inform them about the identification of their relatives and hand over documents.

Property rights

At the end of March, the Kosovo Property Claims Commissioners terminated their work after finalizing draft decisions stemming from their last formal session in December 2014 and reprocessing 23 claims because of processing errors. From 16 January to 15 April, the Kosovo Property Agency Appeals Panel received 80 new appeals and adjudicated 12 appeals.

During the reporting period, the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court for privatization matters rendered 514 decisions in trial panel cases and finalized 60 cases at the appellate panel level.

Other important developments

Local first instance judges were on strike from 3 to 27 March. This hampered the processing of cases throughout Kosovo, including for panels with EULEX judges. Trials throughout Kosovo were delayed, with the exception of Mitrovica Basic Court, where cases continue to be adjudicated by panels composed of EULEX judges only.

2.2 Strengthening

In January and February, irregular migration from Kosovo towards the European Union reached its peak. There are strong indications that numbers have since decreased. EULEX continuously monitored the phenomenon and advised Kosovo Border Police on the matter. The biggest challenge for the Border Police is to strike the right balance between facilitating the freedom of movement while recognizing travellers who have the intention to proceed to the European Union without proper documentation. Once recognized, the only legal possibility for the Border Police is to persuade those individuals not to leave Kosovo by informing them of the associated risks and consequences. In line with the advice of EULEX to the Border Police, there has been an improvement in the flow of information targeting those intending to travel through Serbia to European Union countries

without a visa (for example, informing them about financial, legal and personal risks and possible consequences). Upon the advice of the Mission, the Border Police started to perform checks of the licences of bus and taxi companies jointly with the Kosovo police Traffic Unit and inspectors of the Ministry of Infrastructure. The Border Police were further advised to improve the collection of intelligence from repatriated irregular migrants.

Furthermore, the Mission provided strategically targeted advice to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on measures to reduce the migration phenomenon. This advice included a comprehensive public information campaign, better utilization of the border management system to keep track of people entering or exiting Kosovo, improved information-sharing with Serbian counterparts at the crossing points and a review of the National Migration Strategy 2013-2018.

The lack of a quorum at the Kosovo Judicial Council, which lasted for almost six months, was finally resolved through the election of three new members (including one from a non-majority community) for five-year mandates by the Assembly of Kosovo. In addition, the Judicial Council has opined that the mandate of the remaining three former members of the Independent Judicial and Prosecutorial Commission (precursor to the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council) still serving in the Judicial Council should be extended as there was an option of serving one additional year. In addition, the Mission advised the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council with regard to the extension of the mandate of a member of that Council who had been appointed by the Independent Judicial and Prosecutorial Commission. The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council followed the same line as the Kosovo Judicial Council. EULEX advised that the extension in the mandate of the member of the Prosecutorial Council could contribute towards ensuring institutional stability.

The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council finalized the repeated selection process for the Chief State Prosecutor on 20 February by nominating the only remaining candidate for the position after the final interview. The proposal was forwarded to the Kosovo President for formal appointment. The Mission continues to monitor developments and has expressed concern over the delay in the finalization of the appointment, which is still pending in the President's office.

EULEX designed and conducted a specialized seminar for the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency in order to strengthen capacities of staff in conducting effective preliminary investigations as well as preparing substantiated investigation reports for the prosecution offices.

Since the beginning of the year, the Kosovo police had to deal with several high-profile and mass events. The performance of the police in providing VIP escort and protection as well as in crowd and riot control indicates that there has been significant improvement in its operational capacity and EULEX assessed the police's performance as competent and in accordance with European best practices.

In February, Kosovo Customs announced an increase in revenue of 4.14 per cent from 2013 to 2014, despite a significant decrease in imports. Customs revenue collection amounts to around 80 per cent of Kosovo's gross domestic product. The success of Kosovo Customs is attributed mainly to improved work practices and enhanced compliance measures. EULEX provided advice for their introduction and implementation. The 2015 revenue collection target set by the Kosovo authorities is

even higher and more challenging in the light of decreasing imports and staff shortages. EULEX also met the Ministry of Finance to discuss plans and concerns. In order to address the recurring issue of shortages of Kosovo Correctional Service staff in prisons, the Mission proposed a more efficient use of staff resources. Finally, the preferential treatment of some prisoners has been flagged as an issue of concern by EULEX on a number of occasions.

In March, the Kosovo Correctional Service granted humanitarian leave to a high-profile prisoner for four consecutive days following the death of a person that was not a first degree relative. This is against Service regulations, not in accordance with the common practice of the Service and therefore considered to be preferential treatment. The Mission advised the Service to conduct an internal investigation and to take adequate measures as deemed appropriate.

2.3 The north

The Mission continued to meet regularly with political representatives, civil society, Kosovo Police Regional Command North, the Kosovo Correctional Service at the Mitrovica Detention Centre and others as part of its outreach in the north.

The political and security situation remained relatively calm with the exception of a few notable incidents. On 19 January, miners and municipal employees held a peaceful demonstration in response to the announced intention of Kosovo authorities to nationalize the Trepca mining complex, which was later postponed. Former employees of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior who did not integrate into the Kosovo police staged a series of peaceful protests in Mitrovica North in February and March, demanding integration of remaining staff or reintegration into the Serbian Ministry of the Interior.

Among other security incidents, on 28 February, there was an explosion in Mitrovica North, causing minor material damage. On 9 March, the northern mayors organized a protest against the announced intention of the Director General of the Kosovo police to reshuffle staff to match ranks with appropriate positions in Kosovo police north. On 18 and 20 March, tensions flared up again in the ethnically mixed residential area of Kroi i Vitakut/Brdjani. EULEX monitored the events while being ready to intervene as second responder. However, this was not necessary as the Kosovo police contained the situation. In addition, the joint political message sent by the Mayors of Mitrovica South and Mitrovica North calling for mutual compromise and further talks helped to ease tensions. On 29 March, Kosovo Albanian football supporters gathered from the south side on the main bridge in Mitrovica to cheer the results of a football game. The Kosovo police was able to contain the situation thus averting the potential of conflict with Kosovo Serbs on the north side of the bridge. On 2 April, there were two cases of suspected arson, involving the private vehicles of Kosovo police officers. On 4 April, a car owned by a private firm was set on fire in Zvečan/Zveçan. On 10 April, a Kosovo Albanian juvenile was reported missing. The Kosovo police initiated a search and rescue operation which was led by the Kosovo Security Force and supported by KFOR and the Mitrovica North fire brigade and coordinated with EULEX and the mayors in Mitrovica North and South. EULEX exercised its executive functions in a number of judicial cases that continue to attract wide attention. On 10-11 April, a number of potentially inter-ethnic incidents involving youth were recorded near the main bridge in Mitrovica North. The Kosovo police, together with EULEX and KFOR,

and in coordination with the mayors of Mitrovica South and Mitrovica North, contained the situation and prevented further escalation. On 13 April, a hand grenade exploded at the car park of the Kosovo police station in Zubin Potok, causing material damage. On the same day, a police vehicle parked in Mitrovica North came under fire by unknown perpetrators. The police officers who were manning the vehicle were, at the time of the incident, interviewing the victims of a shooting that took place in a local nightclub the night before.

EULEX exercised its executive functions in a number of judicial cases that continue to attract wide attention. On 19 January, the main trial started against two defendants in a case involving the murder of Kosovo police officer Enver Zymberi in 2011. In parallel, the hearings continued in another case involving the same crimes and events but two other defendants. On 12 February, a EULEX prosecutor interviewed two Kosovo police officers from Zubin Potok in this case and the police executed searches in their houses.

Also on 12 February, a panel of three EULEX judges at Mitrovica Basic Court sentenced a defendant to 14 years' imprisonment for sexual abuse of persons under the age of 16, attempted facilitation of prostitution, attempted sexual assault and rape.

The main trial in the case relating to a Kosovo Serb politician accused of war crimes continued throughout the reporting period; the hearing of all prosecution witnesses was finalized by the end of March. On 20 March, EULEX prosecutors issued 13 summonses for interviews in relation to the ongoing investigation into the murder of the EULEX customs officer Audrius Šenavičius in 2013. Ten of the 13 individuals summoned presented themselves for the interviews. EULEX prosecutors are assessing the follow-up to the non-appearance of the three remaining individuals.

The Mission continued to provide advice to the Kosovo police through its monitoring, mentoring and advising efforts, including on inter-ethnic crime, on principles of intelligence-led policing and on community policing, and supported the police in establishing four local public security committees. On 16 January, EULEX resumed its monitoring, mentoring and advising role in the Municipality of Zubin Potok after the withdrawal of its staff from there in April 2014 because of security concerns. EULEX helped Kosovo police north to understand the importance of improved cooperation with Kosovo police centralized units and Kosovo police in Mitrovica South, EULEX and KFOR for a more efficient response to incidents.

2.4 Dialogue implementation

There were positive developments with regard to justice integration, for which an agreement was reached on 9 February in the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. In this context, on 25 March, the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council issued vacancy notices for 15 judges and 48 prosecutors in Kosovo judicial institutions for the process of integration. The vacancies were published on the institutions' websites as well as in four Kosovo newspapers, with an application deadline of 25 May.

On 10 March, EULEX facilitated the first-ever meeting of the police directors of Serbia and Kosovo, which took place in a friendly atmosphere. The parties

discussed security along the crossing points with Serbia, the integration of former officers of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia, arrest warrants for Serbian citizens and irregular migration. Both sides reiterated their interest in intensive cooperation and agreed that direct operational contacts are urgently needed.

On 12 March, the third central level meeting on the implementation of the agreement on the integrated management of crossing points was held at the Kosovo police headquarters in Pristina. This was the first meeting between the two parties hosted outside European Union premises and signifies yet another positive step forward in the implementation of the agreement. The meeting produced a number of positive agreements including on cooperation on irregular migration and entry/exit forms.

On 27 January, the transfer of administrative responsibility of crossing point Běrnjak/Tabalije from EULEX to the Kosovo police was finalized. Besides the communication link, all other services are now the responsibility of the Kosovo police.

On 26 March, the parties reached an agreement on the process of integration of the civil protection staff in northern Kosovo. EULEX will support the implementation of the agreement in the coming months.

EULEX continued to monitor the use of certified copies of civil registry books with visits to 125 field offices in southern Kosovo. Furthermore, the Mission provided advice to the Civil Registration Agency in order to help prepare or improve its cooperation agreements on information-sharing with law enforcement agencies.

The Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency informed EULEX that it has issued licences to all 30 companies importing controlled food products through crossing point Rudnica/Jarinjë that had applied for licences before the 31 December deadline.

3. Other key issues

Mr. Jean Paul Jacqué, the independent and experienced legal personality appointed by the High Representative on 10 November to review the implementation of the Mission's mandate with a particular focus on the handling of recent allegations presented his report to the High Representative early in April.

In his report, Mr. Jacqué clearly refers to the willingness and desire of the Mission to "find out the truth" in this entire matter and to ensure the allegations are fully investigated. Mr. Jacqué has found no evidence of an attempt at a cover-up by the Mission, as previously alleged.

The report also contains 21 recommendations, each of which will be carefully considered to identify how to best implement it.

Annex II

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 15 April 2015)

Country	*Number*
Austria	1
Germany	1
Hungary	1
Italy	1
Russian Federation	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	1
Total	**7**

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 15 April 2015)

Country	*Number*
Czech Republic	2
Poland	1
Republic of Moldova	1
Romania	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	2
Total	**8**

Map No. 4133 Rev. 61 UNITED NATIONS
April 2015 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2015/304

Security Council

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30 April 2015

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Identical letters dated 30 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to share a list detailing instances in February and in March of 2015 (see annexes I and II) in which Lebanon violated Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and breached Israeli sovereignty. As outlined in the present and previous letters that I have sent, Lebanese violations of the Blue Line are highly visible and occur almost daily.

It is disconcerting to note that most of the violations are absent from reports provided to the Security Council. This silence emboldens Hizbullah and its Iranian patron to continue violating Security Council resolutions and further destabilize the region. Israel will not accept any attacks on its territory and it will exercise its right to self-defense and take all necessary measures to protect its population and territory.

Members of the international community must act with a collective purpose to prevent a dangerous escalation. Hizbullah must be disarmed and the Government of Lebanon must abide by its international commitments and fully implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes to the members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-06837 (E) 080515

Please recycle

Annex I to the identical letters dated 30 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Lebanese violations as reported by the Israel Defense Forces to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

February 2015

Legend	
BL	Blue Line
B	Barrel
BP	Border post
TF	Technical fence
IVO	In the vicinity of
TP	Technical post

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
1.	1 February	09:59	5883	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B63.
2.	1 February	11:40	5884	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12.
3.	1 February	14:20	5885	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B29.
4.	2 February	10:58	5886	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO AP259.
5.	2 February	10:41	5887	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12.
6.	2 February	13:12	5888	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B59.
7.	2 February	14:50	5889	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B73.
8.	2 February	15:38	5890	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B31.
9.	3 February	9:44	5891	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
10.	4 February	12:50	5892	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP10.
11.	4 February	17:10	5893	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
12.	5 February	09:40	5894	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
13.	5 February	12:28	5895	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B32.
14.	5 February	15:45	5896	Two (2) men were observed crossing the BL IVO Mt Dov.
15.	5 February	16:40	5897	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
16.	6 February	15:55	5898	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO Mt Dov.
17.	6 February	16:35	5899	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B32.
18.	7 February	08:40	5900	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B31.
19.	7 February	11:28	5901	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO Mt Dov.
20.	7 February	12:56	5902	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B20(2).
21.	7 February	13:07	5903	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO B32.
22.	7 February	15:40	5904	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO B77.
23.	7 February	16:34	5905	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B60(1).
24.	8 February	06:58	5906	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B19.
25.	8 February	09:15	5907	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO B67.
26.	8 February	18:00	5908	One (1) fishing boat crossed the buoying line. IVO 2nd buoy.
27.	8 February	16:17	5909	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP12.
28.	9 February	13:21	5910	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP31(1).
29.	9 February	17:26	5911	Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B24(1).
30.	10 February	09:18	5912	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO B66.
31.	10 February	11:37	5913	Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B18.
32.	10 February	15:10	5914	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
33.	14 February	17:25	5915	One (1) armed man was observed IVO BP11(3).
34.	15 February	06:50	5916	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP11(3).

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
35.	15 February	15:53	5917	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
36.	16 February	10:14	5918	One (1) armed man was observed IVO BP22(3).
37.	16 February	10:57	5919	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
38.	16 February	14:35	5920	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
39.	17 February	06:03	5921	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP13(1).
40.	17 February	10:55	5922	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO B29.
41.	17 February	11:00	5923	Two (2) civilians were observed climbing on a BL barrel IVO BP10/1(1).
42.	17 February	13:09	5924	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
43.	18 February	08:30	5925	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP13(2).
44.	18 February	12:40	5926	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP31(1).
45.	19 February	09:50	5927	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B66(2).
46.	19 February	16:58	5928	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
47.	20 February	10:36	5929	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B66(2).
48.	20 February	11:25	5930	Eight (8) armed men were observed IVO B88(1).
49.	20 February	11:42	5931	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B63(1).
50.	20 February	11:54	5932	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B63(1).
51.	20 February	12:05	5933	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B66.
52.	20 February	11:40	5934	Seven (7) armed men were observed IVO Mt Dov.
53.	20 February	12:25	5935	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B30.
54.	20 February	13:45	5936	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
55.	20 February	15:30	5937	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
56.	21 February	08:32	5938	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO B31.
57.	21 February	09:45	5939	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B63(1).

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
58.	21 February	09:57	5940	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B59.
59.	21 February	10:12	5941	One (1) armed man was observed IVO BP28.
60.	21 February	11:30	5942	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP33.
61.	21 February	15:35	5943	Four (4) men were observed crossing the BL IVO Mt Dov.
62.	21 February	15:56	5944	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B51(1).
63.	22 February	07:21	5945	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO B66(2).
64.	22 February	08:07	5946	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO B13(2).
65.	22 February	13:48	5947	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
66.	22 February	16:19	5948	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B30.
67.	23 February	09:26	5949	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
68.	23 February	10:01	5950	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP25(2).
69.	23 February	10:00	5951	Four (4) men were observed crossing the BL IVO Mt. Dov.
70.	23 February	13:10	5952	Five (5) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP22(3).
71.	23 February	13:48	5953	One (1) man was observed crossing the BL IVO BP13(2).
72.	23 February	19:24	5954	One (1) fishing boat crossed the buoying line. IVO 3rd and 4th buoy.
73.	24 February	10:58	5955	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
74.	24 February	15:12	5956	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP10.
75.	24 February	15:12	5957	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed climbing on the Blue Line Barrel IVO BP10.
76.	24 February	15:12	5958	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed crossing the BL IVO BP10.
77.	24 February	15:48	5959	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO M2.
78.	25 February	09:32	5960	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B13.

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
79.	26 February	12:57	5961	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B12(1).
80.	27 February	08:08	5962	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
81.	27 February	09:16	5963	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP11(3).
82.	27 February	10:10	5964	Five (5) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13(2).
83.	27 February	10:10	5965	Five (5) men were observed crossing the BL IVO B47(1).
84.	27 February	12:15	5966	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
85.	27 February	12:43	5967	Three (3) men were observed crossing the BL IVO BP13(1).
86.	28 February	08:46	5968	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B18(1).
87.	28 February	09:41	5969	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
88.	28 February	12:05	5970	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP5.
89.	28 February	14:34	5971	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
90.	28 February	14:41	5972	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 30 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Lebanese violations as reported by the Israel Defense Forces to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

March 2015

Legend	
BL	Blue Line
B	Barrel
BP	Border post
TF	Technical fence
IVO	In the vicinity of
Recce	Reconnaissance
TP	Technical post

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
1.	1 March	09:25	5973	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
2.	1 March	16:19	5974	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B30.
3.	2 March	03:47	5975	One (1) fishing boat crossed the buoying line. IVO 2nd buoy.
4.	2 March	09:26	5976	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B51(1).
5.	2 March	09:48	5977	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B30.
6.	2 March	09:57	5978	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B26.
7.	2 March	12:30	5979	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
8.	2 March	11:45	5980	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B18(1).
9.	2 March	17:36	5981	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B22(3).
10.	3 March	09:21	5982	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13(1).
11.	4 March	12:40	5983	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.

Serial No.	Date	Time	Violation	Description
12.	4 March	17:05	5984	Five (5) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
13.	5 March	09:54	5985	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
14.	5 March	12:25	5986	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B32.
15.	5 March	16:55	5987	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
16.	6 March	11:30	5988	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO B30.
17.	7 March	17:51	5989	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
18.	8 March	08:23	5990	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO B31.
19.	8 March	12:26	5991	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B30.
20.	8 March	12:58	5992	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.
21.	8 March	18:00	5993	Two (2) men were observed crossing the BL IVO B30.
22.	8 March	14:15	5994	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO BP13(2).
23.	8 March	15:48	5995	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B12(1).
24.	8 March	16:35	5996	Six (6) armed men were observed IVO B30.
25.	9 March	06:17	5997	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO BP13(1).
26.	9 March	06:55	5998	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO B51(1).
27.	9 March	07:01	5999	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO BP13(1).
28.	9 March	07:27	6000	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B32.
29.	9 March	08:45	6001	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP10/2(2).
30.	9 March	13:32	6002	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B20(3).
31.	9 March	14:00	6003	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP10/2(1).
32.	9 March	17:48	6004	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
33.	10 March	07:18	6005	One (1) armed man was observed IVO BP13(2).

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
34.	10 March	08:48	6006	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP2(2).
35.	10 March	09:23	6007	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
36.	10 March	10:13	6008	Five (5) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO TP16.
37.	10 March	13:34	6009	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO B32.
38.	11 March	07:28	6010	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP13(1).
39.	11 March	07:30	6011	Five (5) armed men were observed IVO BP22(2).
40.	11 March	07:55	6012	One (1) armed man was observed IVO AP243.
41.	13 March	06:50	6140	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO BP22(2).
42.	13 March	13:05	6141	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO BP13(2).
43.	13 March	14:25	6142	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13(2).
44.	14 March	07:39	6144	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO B22(1).
45.	14 March	09:38	6145	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP10/2(2).
46.	14 March	11:48	6147	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B32.
47.	15 March	07:10	6149	One (1) armed man was observed IVO BP20(1).
48.	15 March	08:01	6150	Six (6) men were observed crossing the BL IVO TP16.
49.	15 March	09:26	6151	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP11(3).
50.	15 March	16:40	6152	Four (4) armed men were observed IVO BP22(3).
51.	16 March	07:12	6153	Four (4) men were observed crossing the blue line IVO TP16.
52.	16 March	12:21	6154	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12.
53.	16 March	13:55	6155	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO BP31(1).
54.	16 March	14:46	6156	A tractor was observed crossing the blue line IVO BP15.
55.	16 March	16:25	6157	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B65.
56.	17 March	12:44	6158	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B65.

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
57.	17 March	15:07	6159	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B60.
58.	17 March	15:07	6160	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO B60.
59.	17 March	16:52	6161	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12.
60.	18 March	06:23	6162	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP24.
61.	18 March	07:54	6163	Two (2) men were observed crossing the blue line IVO BP15.
62.	18 March	09:16	6164	Five (5) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B68.
63.	19 March	08:54	6165	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13(1).
64.	20 March	07:06	6166	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B32.
65.	20 March	10:31	6167	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B31.
66.	20 March	14:17	6168	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO BP13(2).
67.	20 March	15:00	6169	Two (2) men were observed crossing the blue line IVO Mt. Dov.
68.	21 March	06:46	6170	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B32.
69.	23 March	07:47	6171	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO B38.
70.	23 March	17:05	6172	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B32(2).
71.	24 March	07:05	6173	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B32(2).
72.	24 March	09:22	6174	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO B2(1).
73.	24 March	10:09	6175	Four (4) men were observed crossing the blue line IVO TP16.
74.	24 March	11:55	6176	Four (4) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B78.
75.	24 March	11:55	6177	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO B78.
76.	25 March	06:36	6178	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B33(3).
77.	25 March	10:01	6179	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12(1).
78.	25 March	11:28	6180	Five (5) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO M6(2).
79.	25 March	12:10	6181	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP8/1(1).

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
80.	26 March	06:24	6182	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO BP13(2).
81.	26 March	06:25	6183	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B50.
82.	26 March	12:53	6184	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO Mt Dov.
83.	26 March	12:26	6185	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B25(2).
84.	26 March	14:43	6186	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B21.
85.	26 March	16:53	6187	Four (4) men were observed climbing on a blue line barrel IVO B29.
86.	27 March	12:25	6188	One (1) man was observed crossing the blue line IVO BP13(2).
87.	27 March	12:49	6189	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12/1.
88.	27 March	15:47	6190	Three (3) men were observed crossing the blue line IVO Mt. Dov.
89.	27 March	16:22	6191	Three (3) men were observed crossing the blue line IVO TP16.
90.	27 March	17:40	6192	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B19(1).
91.	27 March	18:40	6193	Six (6) armed men were observed IVO BP22(3).
92.	28 March	07:08	6194	Three (3) armed men were observed IVO BP13(2).
93.	28 March	11:18	6195	One (1) armed man was observed IVO Mt Dov.
94.	28 March	12:20	6196	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP33.
95.	29 March	10:12	6197	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO B38.
96.	29 March	15:08	6198	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B50.
97.	29 March	15:42	6199	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP12/1.
98.	29 March	16:28	6200	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO B10.
99.	29 March	17:21	6201	One (1) armed man was observed IVO B30.
100.	30 March	07:21	6202	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B66(1)A.
101.	30 March	10:05	6203	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
102.	30 March	14:46	6204	Three (3) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO B71(2).
103.	30 March	15:40	6205	Two (2) armed men were observed IVO B20(1).
104.	31 March	13:07	6206	One (1) Hizbullah militant was observed performing military recce IVO Wazzani.
105.	31 March	15:06	6207	Two (2) Hizbullah militants were observed performing military recce IVO BP13.

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Third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2169 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 2169 (2014), the Security Council requested that I report every three months on progress made towards fulfilling the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The present report covers key developments related to Iraq, and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since the issuance of my second report, dated 2 February 2015 (S/2015/82).

II. Summary of key political developments pertaining to Iraq

A. Internal developments

2. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq continued to demonstrate its commitment to the promotion of national reconciliation, including by consolidating national support for the Iraqi security forces, the Peshmerga, the popular mobilization forces and allied tribal and volunteer fighters in their struggle against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Political and religious leaders also led efforts to delegitimize the extremist ideology of ISIL by advocating religious tolerance and non-violence. The Government continued to implement key tenets of its ministerial programme and the national political agreement, including through the approval by the Council of Ministers of constitutionally-mandated legislative and public sector reforms.

3. Regional and international partners maintained their support for the Government of Iraq in its fight against ISIL, which, along with associated armed groups, remained in control of large swathes of territory in the west and north of the country, where they have continued to inflict civilian casualties, cause massive displacement and perpetrate systematic human rights violations that may amount to war crimes and/or crimes against humanity.

B. Political situation

4. During the reporting period, the political leadership in Iraq reached out to the Iraqi public to consolidate national support for the military campaign against ISIL.

On 2 March, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, the Commander-in-Chief of the Iraqi armed forces, announced to the Council of Representatives the launch of wide-scale military operations in the governorates of Anbar and Salah al-Din. While continuing to deploy the popular mobilization forces, the Prime Minister also held several meetings to mobilize Sunni tribal support in the ISIL-held governorates, including visiting the Sunni tribal leaders from the Dulaim and al-Jaghifa tribes. In one notable visit to Ramadi on 8 April, he visited Iraqi army units and volunteers fighting ISIL alongside the Iraqi security forces. In an effort to coordinate and control all forces mobilized against ISIL, on 7 April the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution requiring all ministries and State institutions to treat the Popular Mobilization Commission as a formal institution linked to the Prime Minister and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The resolution granted the Commission the command, control and regulatory authority over the popular mobilization forces.

5. Political leaders also stepped up efforts to counter the extremist ideology of ISIL. On 1 February, the Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, Ammar al-Hakim, hosted a conference to promote dialogue among religions and sects, which was attended by President Fuad Masum, Prime Minister al-Abadi, Speaker Salim al-Jabouri and Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq, among others. All leaders, without exception, expressed the need for a legislative reform package to prevent extremist ideology from penetrating Iraq's social fabric, as well as the critical role of religious authorities in countering the extremist ideology advanced by ISIL.

6. During the reporting period, the Government took steps to advance the legislative reform package identified in the national political agreement. The legislative framework to establish a national guard, which would institutionalize the status of volunteer fighters and promote sectarian balance in Iraq's security forces, was approved by the Council of Ministers on 3 February, and a first reading of the bill was conducted by the Council of Representatives on 2 March. The Council of Ministers also approved the revised Justice and Accountability and Banning of the Baath Party Act, which has yet to be tabled in the Council of Representatives. On 2 March, Prime Minister al-Abadi announced to the Council of Representatives that a draft general amnesty law was also under consideration by the Supreme Judicial Council.

7. The Government of Iraq continued to take measures to expedite legal processes and strengthen the rule of law. The Iraqi judiciary took steps to advance Prime Minister al-Abadi's executive order of 1 December 2014 to accelerate the release of detainees. The federal Judicial Authority announced that new procedures had been adopted to speed up the investigation of detainees charged with terrorism offences, and subsequently the Authority announced that 3,902 detainees who had been held on terrorism-related charges had been released. On 25 February, the Chief Justice, Midhat al-Mahmoud, instructed the Prosecutor General and the courts to expedite the cases of 140 female detainees throughout Iraq, including 43 who are facing terrorism charges. In addition, in March, the federal Judicial Authority circulated several directives and instructions recommending that courts of first instance across the country release accused persons on bail, especially female detainees.

8. At the same time, the legislature took steps to strengthen transparency and accountability in governance through the enactment of key legislation and prompt

inquiries into reported violations of human rights. On 16 April, the Council of Representatives commenced a second reading of the constitutionally-mandated draft of the federal Supreme Court law aimed at strengthening the independence of the supreme administrative organ of the Iraqi judiciary. On 10 March, the legislature also conducted the second reading of the amended draft of the federal Civil Service Council law that regulates recruitment and selection in the public service. This is an important step towards reforming the public sector and combating administrative corruption — key tenets in the national political agreement. On 14 April, the Council of Representatives postponed, for a second time, the first reading of the Political Parties law to enable governorate-level consultations to take place. The legal framework of the Political Parties law will provide greater transparency in the work of political parties. The Parliamentary Defence and Security Committee also tabled its report into the alleged massacre at Camp Speicher on 12 June 2014, which included findings and recommendations, including that the military officers who had fled their posts during the massacre be brought to justice.

9. The Council of Ministers also approved constitutionally-mandated legislation to advance decentralization and public sector reform. On 10 March, the Council of Ministers approved the draft General Authority for the Regions law to establish a constitutionally-mandated independent commission (article 105) with oversight functions to guarantee the rights and fair participation of regions, as well as governorates not organized in a region, in federal decision-making. The enactment of the law is another commitment stipulated in the national political agreement to promote decentralization and ensure the balanced representation of all components of Iraqi society in the public service.

10. Reports of sectarian attacks perpetrated by militia groups operating outside State control continued to challenge Government efforts to bring all armed formations under its effective control in order to further national reconciliation and strengthen the rule of law. The assassination of Sheikh Qassim Swaidan al-Janabi, his son Mohammed al-Janabi and several bodyguards on 13 February triggered significant unrest. During the session of the Council of Representatives held on 14 February, Speaker al-Jabouri condemned the crimes, as did Prime Minister al-Abadi, who indicated in his statement that he made no distinction between crimes perpetrated by terrorists and those perpetrated by militias.

11. On 14 February, the Sunni-led Iraqi Forces Coalition and secular Wataniya Alliance suspended their participation in legislative sessions in protest, demanding that an investigation be conducted, that the perpetrators be held to account and that measures be imposed to limit the bearing of weapons to State institutions. On 2 March, the two political blocs resumed their participation after having received assurances from Prime Minister al-Abadi that the Government remained committed to protecting Iraqis from sectarian violence, dismantling armed groups and preventing the carrying of weapons outside State control.

12. On 13 and 20 February, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani issued fatwas calling on members of the security forces, including the popular mobilization force, to refrain from retaliatory acts of violence against civilians.

13. In another effort to gradually restore normality for residents of the capital, Prime Minister al-Abadi issued an order lifting the curfew restricting movement in the Kathhimiya, Adhamiya, Mansour, Karrada and al-Sedea areas of Baghdad,

transferring responsibility for security from the Iraqi army to the federal police. The order took effect on 7 February.

14. The Government of Iraq took measures to lay the groundwork for the stabilization and reconstruction of areas liberated from ISIL. On 17 February, the Council of Ministers approved the disbursement of funds to owners of property affected by terrorist and military operations and authorized the Chair of the reconstruction fund to oversee its implementation. On 11 March, Prime Minister al-Abadi instructed the Salah al-Din military command to make all efforts to ensure that normality returns to liberated areas under its jurisdiction, in coordination with relevant ministries. Prime Minister al-Abadi also instructed the Ministry of the Environment to clear liberated areas from mines and remnants of other explosive devices.

15. Further enhancement of relations between Baghdad and Erbil took place during the reporting period. On 15 February, the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani, met Prime Minister al-Abadi in Baghdad to discuss obstacles to the implementation of the 2 December agreement on energy exports and revenue-sharing, including technical issues related to oil exports, as well as budgetary allocations to the Kurdistan Regional Government. On 6 April, Prime Minister al-Abadi met with Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani in Erbil to discuss Baghdad-Erbil relations, humanitarian issues and the military campaign against ISIL. Following the meeting Prime Minister al-Abadi declared that an important stage had been reached in the federal Government's relationship with the Kurdistan Regional Government.

16. On 26 February the federal Government released $208 million to the Kurdistan Regional Government for the payment of public salaries for January, which was followed by a further funds transfer of $408 million on 20 March for the payment of public salaries for February. On 2 April, the Ministry of Finance announced that a third payment of $450 million to the Kurdistan Regional Government would take place.

17. Baghdad and Erbil also continued to strengthen joint security cooperation. On 8 March, a tripartite meeting was held in Baghdad between military officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi security forces, as well as representatives of the United States of America. They mainly discussed the coordination between Erbil and Baghdad in the fight against ISIL, as well as Peshmerga support in future operations to liberate Mosul and Hawija. During the Prime Minister's visit to Erbil on 6 April, an agreement was reached with President Barzani to form a joint operations centre for the liberation of Mosul.

C. Security

18. The security situation in Iraq remained volatile throughout the reporting period. Conflict and armed violence was largely concentrated in areas under ISIL control in Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. Iraq's armed forces, aided by Popular Mobilization Forces and allied tribal and volunteer fighters made progress against ISIL in Salah al-Din and southern Kirkuk, suffering many casualties. Meanwhile, areas recaptured in Diyala Governorate remained under Government control.

19. During the reporting period, the international coalition continued to support the Government's military campaign against ISIL. Coalition airstrikes targeted a number of ISIL positions, including those around Mosul and the surrounding districts, Mount Sinjar, south of Kirkuk, around the Baiji oil refinery and throughout Anbar governorate. On 1 March, from the front lines in Samarra, Prime Minister al-Abadi ordered the Iraqi security forces, aided by popular mobilization forces and local tribal fighters, to retake the city of Tikrit and to liberate Salah al-Din governorate from ISIL. On 25 March, in response to a direct request for assistance from Prime Minister al-Abadi, the international coalition joined these efforts by commencing air strikes against ISIL positions in Tikrit.

20. On 30 March, pro-Government forces liberated eastern Tikrit, after which, on 9 April, the rest of the city was freed from ISIL control. ISIL continued, however, to maintain control over supply routes from areas of Salah al-Din to Mosul and others under its control in northern Iraq. In early February, Iraqi security forces launched ground operations in Baiji to expel ISIL elements from the area. Although the Iraqi security forces control access to the town of Baiji and the refinery, ISIL continues, at the present time, to maintain a presence outside these immediate areas. In early February, armed clashes between pro-Government forces and ISIL in the vicinity of Samarra resulted in heavy casualties on both sides.

21. In Ninewa, Peshmerga forces, supported by popular mobilization forces and international coalition air assets, has maintained pressure on ISIL positions in Sinjar and across the north-west area of the governorate, while ISIL has carried out direct attacks on Peshmerga positions and checkpoints. Control over the city of Sinjar city continues to be contested, with regular clashes and airstrikes taking place. On 11 February, ISIL carried out a suicide car bomb attack against Peshmerga security forces in Sinjar and also conducted several attacks along the Kurdish defensive line between Sinjar and Makhmour. The Peshmerga has repelled these attacks and has prevented further territorial gains by ISIL in these areas.

22. The Peshmerga made steady gains against ISIL in Kirkuk governorate, specifically in the west and south of Kirkuk city. On 8 March, the Peshmerga commenced a major military operation to retake areas under ISIL control, including the Hawija district in southern Kirkuk. By 10 March, the Peshmerga had liberated a vast area that had been captured by ISIL on 30 January. These areas included villages in southern Kirkuk, the Khabaza oilfield and strategic road junctions, including between Baghdad and Mosul. The Peshmerga also pushed the militants further away from the city of Kirkuk and its adjoining oilfields.

23. In Anbar governorate the security situation was highly fluid. In early February, ISIL carried out a series of attacks, including in Ramadi, Hit, al-Baghdadi and Haditha, while heavy clashes were also reported in Rawa and Al Qa'im. On 12 February, ISIL briefly took control of the city of al-Baghdadi and surrounding villages, as well as a strategic road linking al-Baghdadi to the largest Iraqi security forces base in the governorate, Ain al-Assad airbase. In early March, Iraqi security forces and local tribal fighters, aided by international coalition airstrikes, regained control of al-Baghdadi and the road leading to Ain al-Assad base. On 14 April, ISIL launched further attacks in the Ramadi area and encircled the city centre by taking control of al-Boghanim, al-Bosoda, al-Bomahal, al-Bokhalifa and part of the al-Sofia area. On 15 April, the Saraya al-Salam force arrived at the al-Habbaniyah military base east of Ramadi to bolster Iraqi army forces. ISIL made further

advances into the Ramadi city centre on 17 April, leaving only the Iraqi Army's 8th brigade headquarters and Government offices under State control. Haditha and areas in the south of Karma remained under Government control, while the majority of areas in the governorate remained either contested, under siege or in the control of ISIL.

24. During the reporting period, Baghdad continued to be subjected to acts of terrorism, including targeted killings and kidnappings, sectarian violence and the use of small arms fire against civilians; unidentified bodies with gunshot wounds were a common sight in Baghdad. The deadliest attack occurred in Kadhimiyah, on 9 February, when a suicide bomber carried out an attack on a restaurant, killing 21 and wounding 49. On 17 April, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was detonated in the Ainkawa district of Erbil, killing three people and wounding 14. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

D. Regional and international developments

25. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq continued to strengthen its cooperation with neighbouring countries and the wider international community. High-level delegations paid visits to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates as part of wider efforts to strengthen ties with neighbouring countries and promote regional security cooperation.

26. On 11 February, President Fuad Masum headed a high-level visit to Doha, where he met with the Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hammad al Thani, and the Prime Minister, Sheikh Abdallah bin Nasser al Thani. During the visit, they reached an agreement to re-establish Qatar's diplomatic presence in Baghdad and to create a joint Iraq-Qatar security committee. On 21 April, President Masum visited Ankara as part of an official visit to build bilateral relations between Iraq and Turkey. On 17 February, the Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Eshaq Jahangiri, and Prime Minister al-Abadi agreed on the need to strengthen their bilateral and regional ties. This was followed by a meeting on 25 February between Prime Minister al-Abadi and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammed Javad Zarif, during which they discussed the need for joint cooperation to counter the ISIL threat and achieve security and stability in the region. On 23 March, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, expressed his country's ongoing commitment to stand by Iraq in the war against ISIL and confirmed its commitment to enhancing bilateral relations. On 20 April, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Salim al-Jubouri, Vice-President Osama al-Nujaifi and Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq met with King Abdullah II in Amman.

27. On 15 April, Prime Minister al-Abadi undertook a three-day visit to Washington, D.C., where he met with President Barak Obama and other senior Government officials, including leaders of the Congress and Senate, as well as the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to mobilize support for Iraq.

28. On 16 March, Kuwait opened a consulate in Basra as another step towards strengthening ties between the two States. The Government of Iraq also held high-level meetings with representatives of the Governments of Jordan and Turkey to discuss the ISIL threat. Both countries, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran,

pledged assistance to the Iraqi security forces, including, in some cases, explicit pledges of support to the Peshmerga.

29. On 22 March, Prime Minister al-Abadi placed a phone call to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia to reinforce bilateral relations between the two countries and to discuss cooperation in the fight against ISIL. During the call the King invited Prime Minister al-Abadi to visit Saudi Arabia.

30. The Government of Iraq is also improving its relations with regional organizations. At its ministerial meeting in Riyadh on 12 March, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Gulf Cooperation Council) issued a statement reiterating its support for national unity and peace in Iraq, and calling for concerted efforts to preserve the coherence of the country and the unity of its territory. On 29 March, the League of Arab States concluded its summit, during which several leaders praised the work of Prime Minister al-Abadi, called upon Iraqi leaders to unite and called on the international community to assist the Iraqi Government.

31. On 28 February, Turkey supported the rotation of the deployment by the Kurdistan Regional Government of a fourth Peshmerga contingent, consisting of 150 soldiers, to Kobani/Ain al-Arab in the Syrian Arab Republic.

32. The international community continued to provide security and military assistance to the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government within the framework of the global coalition against ISIL. The Government of Iraq expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the coalition to combat terrorism. In the Kurdistan region of Iraq, military advisers from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States have been providing support to the Peshmerga. In early February, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom jointly established the Kurdistan Training Coordination Centre in Erbil to coordinate military assistance and training. On 17 March, the Iraqi Council of Ministers reaffirmed Iraq's commitment to its relationship with the global coalition and expressed appreciation for its support in the fight against ISIL. The Council also underscored the importance of full respect for Iraqi sovereignty in all aspects.

III. Update on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations country team

A. Political activities

33. My Special Representative continued to work in close partnership with the Government of Iraq and stakeholders across the political spectrum to facilitate implementation of the national political agreement and to promote political dialogue and national reconciliation.

34. In Basra, on 5 February, in support of national reconciliation and social cohesion efforts, my Special Representative hosted the second in a series of round-table forums with representatives of civil society, community, tribal and religious leaders and scholars to gather local perspectives on approaches to promote social peace, reconciliation and national unity. Key recommendations from the meeting included the need to: address economic and political marginalization, corruption and

sectarianism; disarm militia groups operating outside the state; empower the Iraqi security forces; and strengthen the rule of law.

35. From 2 to 7 February, in both Baghdad and Erbil, my Special Representative and my Deputy Special Representative inaugurated and participated in an Interfaith Harmony Week observance organized by UNAMI in collaboration with civil society groups and religious leaders.

36. UNAMI also continued to engage Iraqi interlocutors on legislative reform. Throughout March, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs held a series of meetings with Vice-President Allawi, Speaker al-Jabouri, First Deputy Speaker Hammoudi and heads of Parliamentary blocs in the Council of Representatives to discuss important legislation. The discussions included the national guard draft law, the draft general amnesty law and the revised Justice and Accountability and Banning of the Baath Party Act.

37. My Special Representative continued to use his good offices to facilitate cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil. On 2 March, he visited Erbil where he met with President Barzani, Kurdistan Regional Parliament Speaker Mohammed Sadiq, the Head of the Independent High Electoral Commission, Sarbast Mustafa, and several other high-level Kurdish officials to discuss outstanding challenges between Baghdad and Erbil.

38. My Special Representative also continued his regional engagement. During the reporting period he travelled to Jordan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, where he met senior Government officials to seek support for Iraq's national reconciliation efforts and for the fight against ISIL. UNAMI continued its efforts to promote women's rights in Iraq by working towards the implementation of Iraq's national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), advocating renewed efforts to provide targeted assistance to women and girls affected by violence in conflict, promoting an enhanced role for women in decision-making in the political and social sphere and advising the Ministry on Women's Affairs of the need for reform on a number of laws. On 5 March, my Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs joined Prime Minister al-Abadi in a ceremony in Baghdad to commemorate International Women's Day, at which attendees welcomed the appointment of Thikra Alwash as the first female Mayor of Baghdad.

39. On 30 March, I visited Baghdad to underscore the continuing and full support of the United Nations for the advancement of peace, development, humanitarian assistance and human rights in Iraq. I held productive discussions with President Masum, Prime Minister al-Abadi, Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Speaker of the Council of Representatives al-Jabouri and President Barzani of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. At our meetings we reviewed the progress of ongoing military operations to liberate areas under the control of ISIL, including, most recently, areas around Tikrit. We also discussed the humanitarian and human rights situation in Iraq and Iraq's national reconciliation efforts and other challenges.

B. Electoral assistance

40. Following up on an electoral needs assessment mission in 2012 to determine United Nations support to the Independent High Electoral Commission ahead of the elections in 2013 and 2014, and upon three new requests from the Independent High

Electoral Commission, the Council of Representatives and the Kurdistan Regional Parliament for electoral assistance, a further electoral needs assessment mission was deployed from 15 to 29 March. The team, comprised of representatives from the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), held meetings with representatives of the Independent High Electoral Commission, the Council of Representatives, Government institutions, heads of political blocs, international non-governmental organizations, the diplomatic community, civil society organizations and other interlocutors. The recommendations of the mission will guide the next phase of United Nations electoral activities in Iraq.

41. During the reporting period, the UNAMI Electoral Assistance Office continued its engagement with the Legal Committee of the Council of Representatives with regard to the review of the national electoral framework. UNAMI delivered a presentation to the members of the Legal Committee on seat allocation formulae and provided inputs to discussions on voting rights for the military, special voting and the Political Parties law as well as on parliamentary oversight over electoral processes.

42. UNAMI held regular meetings and consultations with the Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission on ongoing electoral activities and perspectives for future United Nations electoral support. At a meeting held on 24 February between UNAMI, the Chair of the Independent High Electoral Commission and several electoral commissioners, the commissioners noted that United Nations support at the policy-level would be of assistance, and that operational support should focus on information technology, results-management systems, voter registry and media and boundary delimitation. UNAMI also reiterated its concern to the Commission with regard to the continued use of a biometric voter registration system, which relies on contested databases based on outdated food ration cards and special military voting list numbers. Following a subsequent request from the Commission, UNAMI is preparing to engage more intensely in the preparation process of the registration system to ensure its credibility.

43. UNAMI also continued to monitor developments regarding the establishment of the Independent High Electoral Commission of the Kurdistan Region. Its nine-member Board of Commissioners formally assumed its duties on 1 March 2015. The commissioners have indicated to UNAMI and to the electoral needs assessment mission that United Nations electoral support might include policy advice, oversight and operational and coordinative support. The same request was subsequently submitted by the Speaker of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament in a formal request to UNAMI in early February 2015.

C. Human rights developments and activities

44. The protection of civilians from the impact of armed conflict, terrorism and violence, and ensuring their access to safety and humanitarian assistance, remain of critical concern. Since my last report, UNAMI recorded a minimum number of 4,750 civilian casualties (1,465 killed and 3,285 wounded), bringing the total of civilian casualties for 2015 thus far to a minimum of 7,009 (2,255 killed and 4,754 wounded). Since the upsurge in violence at the beginning of June 2014, there has been a minimum of 10,736 civilians killed and 18,565 wounded.

45. UNAMI continued to receive reports of systematic and widespread violations of international law perpetrated by ISIL and associated armed groups. Reports included: attacks directly targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, executions and other extrajudicial and targeted killings; abductions, rape and other forms of sexual and physical violence perpetrated against women and children; trafficking in persons and sexual slavery; forced recruitment of children; destruction or desecration of places of religious or cultural significance; wanton destruction and looting of property; and denial of fundamental rights and freedoms. Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities were gravely affected, particularly Christian, Faili Kurd, Kaka'e, Sabaean, Shabak, Shi'ite and Turkmen communities.

46. Violations of women's rights by ISIL and associated armed groups continue to be of grave concern. Thousands of women and children, particularly from the Yezidi and other minority communities, remain in ISIL captivity. Women who escaped ISIL captivity confirmed in interviews with UNAMI that many of them had been trafficked as slaves and been subjected to sexual and physical violence.

47. ISIL and associated armed groups continue to subject civilians living in areas under their control to grave violations of their basic human rights, including enforcing compliance with its ideology through targeted killings, abductions and sentences handed down by "Shari'a courts". ISIL itself has published videos depicting people being subjected to a range of abhorrent punishments, including stoning, being pushed-off buildings, decapitation and crucifixion. The mass graves found in Zumar in February, containing the remains of 60 persons, mostly of the Yezidi community, is just one such example. Some of the bodies had been shackled and blindfolded at the time they were killed.

48. Throughout the reporting period, ISIL and associated armed groups also continued to target persons and groups suspected of being allied with the Government of Iraq or opposed to their ideology, in particular members of the Iraqi security forces and police. Examples include the abduction of 26 Sunni tribal leaders in Mosul and 59 other members of the Sunni community from al-Alam subdistrict in Salah al-Din on the basis that they opposed ISIL. On 14 February, ISIL published a video depicting captured Peshmerga and Iraqi police locked up in cages. They were wearing orange jumpsuits, and some were being paraded through the streets of Hawija. The fate of the men remains unknown.

49. Respect for freedom of expression remains of concern in Iraq, as journalists and media professionals continue to be subjected to threats, intimidation and more serous violence in carrying out their work. UNAMI received reports that ISIL continued to target journalists, executing one on 4 March. On 9 April an international journalist working for Reuters was forced to leave Iraq after he was subjected to a campaign involving death threats on the media after he filed reports of violations allegedly carried out by armed militia during the campaign to liberate Tikrit from ISIL.

50. During the reporting period, ISIL continued to destroy sites of religious and cultural significance, causing immeasurable damage to Iraq's historical and cultural legacy. On 26 February, ISIL posted a video online featuring its destruction of artefacts in Mosul's archaeological museum, of statues located at Nineveh's ancient museum and of statues located at Nineveh's ancient Nergal Gate site. These destructive acts were followed by ISIL attacks on the Nimrud and Hatra archaeological sites. ISIL also desecrated and destroyed other religious and historic

sites of significance in Mosul, including the thousand-year old mosque of Imam Muhsin, the ancient al-Khidr Sunni mosque, the Sheikh Mahmoud Sunni shrine and Christian religious places. On 22 March, the destruction of an ancient minaret, which is of great significance to the Yezidi community in Sinjar, was reported. Between 21 and 22 February, ISIL burnt thousands of historical books and manuscripts looted from bookshops and the Mosul public library, which it later demolished.

51. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continued its close monitoring of the situation and its advocacy work for heritage protection in Iraq. I myself and UNESCO issued several statements to condemn the destruction of cultural heritage, call for mobilization to stop cultural cleansing and express readiness to assist the Iraqi authorities whenever possible. On 28 March, the Director-General of UNESCO launched the "#unite4heritage" global campaign in Baghdad to build support for the protection of cultural heritage in Iraq.

52. In addition to ISIL violations of human rights, UNAMI continued to receive reports that anti-ISIL armed groups and militias were perpetrating extrajudicial killings of captured ISIL fighters and associated armed groups, abducting civilians, looting and other crimes. Members of the Sunni community were particularly affected. On 21 February, popular mobilization forces beheaded three ISIL members taken captive, tied their bodies to vehicles and dragged them through the streets of Samarra in Salah al-Din.

53. On 28 March, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, delivered a report to the Human Rights Council documenting crimes committed by ISIL and by other armed groups.

54. The ongoing armed conflict and acts of terrorism continued to detrimentally affect children in Iraq. The Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict, co-chaired by UNAMI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), documented 26 incidents negatively affecting children during the reporting period. Acts of terrorism and armed conflict, particularly crossfiring, indiscriminate shelling and improvised explosive devices, claimed at least 23 child casualties (7 killed and 16 injured), although many cases of child casualties may go unreported. In addition, there was a marked increase in the number of reports received by UNAMI of child recruitment by ISIL in all areas under its control, as well as by pro-Government militias in all conflict-affected areas, including in Baghdad and Basra.

55. On 5 March, the United Nations Gender Task Force, led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), launched its "Lets Save Our Women and Girls" campaign. The project, which was established in collaboration with the State Ministry for Women Affairs and the Kurdistan High Council of Women, marked the celebration of International Women's Day 2015 in Iraq. The campaign calls for action to support internally displaced women and girls, alleviate their suffering and protect their dignity.

56. During the reporting period, UNDP continued to enhance the capacity of national and regional government institutions to ensure their meaningful and effective participation in monitoring the human rights situation in Iraq. A total of 91 commissioners and core staff (62 male and 29 female) received training on the documentation of human rights violations, report writing, strategic planning and investigations.

D. Camp New Iraq and Camp Hurriya

57. UNAMI continues to monitor the human rights and humanitarian situation of the residents of Camp Hurriya and to facilitate solutions to camp management issues between the Government of Iraq and representatives of camp residents.

58. On 11 February, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and my Special Envoy on the relocation of Camp Hurriya residents, Jane Holl Lute, attended a high-level meeting organized in Geneva by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the relocation of residents of Camp Hurriya. My Special Envoy and UNHCR continue to work together to seek durable solutions for the residents through consular and humanitarian channels. As of 14 April, 637 persons had been relocated outside Iraq; 30 had left for Albania through an independent channel; 124 had been relocated through consular readmission to nine countries (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom); 450 had been relocated through humanitarian admission to four countries (Albania, Italy, Switzerland and the United States); and 33 had been resettled in five countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom). In addition to these cases, three persons from the temporary transit location had been accepted by two countries and are awaiting departure from Iraq and 1,121 requests remain pending with 18 countries through the humanitarian, relocation and consular streams. Aside from the above successful relocations, 2,475 persons remain in Iraq, of which 2,469 reside in Camp Hurriya and 6 in accommodations in a Baghdad hotel.

E. Humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development

59. More than five million people are estimated to require humanitarian assistance in Iraq, including 2.6 million internally displaced persons living in 2,900 locations. Nearly half of all displaced are children. Close to 30 per cent of displaced households are in critical situations, housed in abandoned or unfinished buildings, makeshift structures, schools and mosques; only 9 per cent are living in camps. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi families have opened their homes to the displaced. As the crisis continues into a second year, conditions for these families are rapidly worsening. Food insecurity has doubled during the reporting period, impacting an estimated 4.4 million Iraqis. In the Kurdistan region, the overall poverty rate has doubled. The Syrian refugee population in Iraq has continued to increase, with 150 to 200 persons arriving in Iraq per day. UNHCR reports that 247,861 refugees are currently seeking safety in Iraq, of which 93,000 live within the 10 camps across the Kurdistan Region.

60. Humanitarian access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates. Millions of Iraqis continue to live in areas under the control of ISIL and other armed groups. Fighting during the reporting period in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates has displaced thousands of new families. In Haditha and Al-Baghdadi, under siege since an ISIL attack in February 2015, tens of thousands of households have been at extreme risk. The United Nations has used innovative solutions to continue its work in hard-to-reach areas. In February, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched a remote monitoring project through telephone surveys. Other agencies have relied on local partners to reach difficult areas and provide life-saving assistance.

61. Under the leadership of my Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations and its partners have continued to provide life-saving assistance under the declared level 3 emergency, reaching two million internally displaced persons each month. Front-line responses have been expanded and strengthened. UNICEF, WFP and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have delivered thousands of life-saving kits through the rapid response mechanism, reaching people within 48 hours of their displacement. WFP has provided hundreds of thousands of emergency rations with in the first days of displacement and millions of family rations in the first weeks. UNHCR and IOM have provided tens of thousands of emergency kits to highly vulnerable households, including in areas under siege.

62. Government coordination of the operation has continued. The joint Government-United Nations Coordination and Monitoring Centre, opened in January in Baghdad with the support of UNDP, including United Nations staff, has provided situational reports on the crisis and coordinated first-line responses. The Joint Crisis Centre in Erbil has coordinated interventions in the Kurdistan Region. A comprehensive registration effort by the Government has improved the tracking and identification of displaced households.

63. During the reporting period, major efforts have been made through the cluster system to support the most vulnerable. Under the food security cluster, WFP has provided food assistance to nearly 1.8 million displaced and conflict-affected people across Iraq. WFP food vouchers have benefitted 423,000 people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, contributing $10 million per month to the local economy. Emergency assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has boosted support for crop production and expanded livestock and veterinary services. Hard-hit famers have produced wheat to feed 120,000 people and 2,000 metric tons of animal feed, grown 52,000 metric tons of vegetables and bred 50,000 hens. Under the education cluster, UNICEF and UNESCO have completed prefabricated schools in camps and host communities in Kirkuk, Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil, Dohuk and Basra. UNICEF has rehabilitated 154 schools in Wassit, Anbar, Diyala and Missan governorates, which had previously served as shelters for internally displaced persons, and UNESCO has renovated 16 secondary schools in Dohuk.

64. Under the shelter cluster, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has provided 60 prefabricated shelter units in Basra and is building an additional 1,700 in Baghdad, Karbala and Dohuk. UNHCR has continued to accommodate tens of thousands of internally displaced persons in eight camps and is constructing three new camps and rehabilitating 650 collective centres and 660 family shelters to help ensure that households at high risk are able to gain access to safe living conditions. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has distributed 125,000 solar-powered lighting and mobile telephone charging kits and installed 280 solar streetlights to improve the safety and security of internally displaced persons in 19 camps. With one of the largest humanitarian networks in Iraq, IOM has provided tens of thousands of non-food and shelter kits as well as multi-season tents.

65. Under the health cluster, the World Health Organization (WHO) has procured medicines, supplies and medical devices to support the delivery of health-care services to internally displaced persons. In February, WHO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health implemented a nationwide polio immunization campaign, and on

27 April Iraq marked its first polio-free year, a milestone for the country and the international community. Over 5.3 million (94%) of 5.6 million targeted children, aged between 9 months to 5 years, were vaccinated against polio, while 3.9 million of 4.1 million children (96%) were vaccinated against measles.

66. In support of the emergency social protection floor, UNOPS continued to administer the "humanitarian relief quick impact grant" programme on behalf of UNHCR, distributing small grants to fund urgent humanitarian assistance efforts across central and southern Iraq. UNICEF disbursed emergency cash assistance to tens of thousands of displaced families in camps and UNHCR distributed cash assistance to vulnerable families which had been internally displaced. The FAO cash-for-work programmes have created temporary jobs for internally displaced persons, enabling them to purchase life-saving necessities.

67. Under the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) cluster, UNICEF and its partners have built sanitation facilities for internally displaced persons in 40 locations and provided water purification materials for 1.2 million people in central and northern Iraq. Under the livelihoods and social cohesion cluster, UNDP has partnered with Iraqi authorities and non-governmental organizations to provide job skills training and cash grants to promote entrepreneurship and job creation for Iraqi displaced persons, Syrian refugees and host communities. In partnership with UNHCR, UNDP has supported the multi-sector needs assessments for refugees with specific resilience indicators and a host community assessment to measure service delivery and the perceptions of host communities about refugees.

68. Since the time of my second report, internally displaced persons have started to return in small numbers to their areas of origin after the withdrawal of armed groups; many of these families have received non-food items from UNHCR. Without exception, all newly liberated areas require significant rehabilitation; many will require the almost total reconstruction of essential public and private infrastructure and basic services.

69. During the reporting period, funding has emerged as one of the major constraints facing the humanitarian operation, notably the extraordinary contribution of $500 million from Saudi Arabia in support of the humanitarian operation that concluded at the end of March. With less than 40 per cent of the humanitarian strategic response plan funded, on 18 February the United Nations in Iraq made a funding appeal for $150 million to support fast-track priorities. Although donors have come forward to cover a significant portion of this appeal, 60 per cent of emergency activities, including health and food security life-saving programmes, are currently at risk of being curtailed or shut down due to lack of funds. My Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs is overseeing the elaboration of a new, streamlined and highly prioritized humanitarian response plan, which will be launched in Brussels at the end of May. Major efforts are also under way to secure funding for stabilization and reconstruction in newly liberated areas. Dr. Abdul Basit Turki has been appointed by the office of the Prime Minister as the Chair of the Fund for Areas Affected by Terrorist Operations, with discussions continuing on the status of a funding mechanism to be managed by the United Nations.

F. Security and operational issues

70. The conclusion and entry into force of a status of mission agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq is still pending, and the delay in its finalization is significantly hampering the effectiveness of United Nations operations. The cumbersome entry and exit procedures for United Nations staff affect all personnel, and in particular the normal rotation and deployment of United Nations guard units.

71. Despite the volatile security environment in Iraq, United Nations operations in the country are ongoing. On 31 January, United Nations staff in Kirkuk were temporarily relocated to Erbil following ISIL rocket attacks against the al-Hurriyah airbase, with two rounds of ammunition landing within 100 metres of the United Nations compound in Kirkuk. On 4 February, after a security assessment, relocated United Nations staff returned to Kirkuk. The Baghdad office and the field offices continue to monitor security closely and have taken requisite mitigation measures accordingly.

72. Procurement and logistical operations also continued under challenging conditions. The lengthy procedures required to obtain access authorizations and escorts for staff, including the receipt of equipment and supplies at locations throughout Iraq, have been major constraints to the efficiency of such operations.

73. In Baghdad, the building of three-storey and five-storey accommodation structures meant to house United Nations staff has been delayed due to the ongoing security situation. As an alternative, UNAMI is in the process of building two two-storey buildings and four single-storey buildings. These new buildings, which are estimated to be completed by February 2016, will add 84 units to the existing accommodation in the D-2 compound (formerly housing the United States Agency for International Development). In addition to the new construction, most existing units are being divided to accommodate an additional staff member. New buildings and modified units will bring the total capacity of the D-2 compound to 271 living spaces.

IV. Observations

74. While the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq remains complex, fluid and challenging, Iraqis and their regional and international partners have together made progress in the fight against ISIL in Iraq. The recent liberation of towns in the Salah al-Din governorate and elsewhere are encouraging signs of hope.

75. I am convinced that the Government of Iraq, under the leadership of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, is committed to the promotion of national reconciliation and adoption of laws that help consolidate national unity at a time of war against ISIL. The United Nations is fully engaged and I reiterate the readiness of the Organization to continue its support for all efforts towards national reconciliation, social cohesion and legislative reform. In this regard, I urge all Iraqi stakeholders to cooperate with each other and with the Government in this endeavour, including on consensus on a number of pending essential laws and in particular on a national guard law.

76. The partnership of the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government is vital to maintaining national unity at this time of crisis. I welcome the commitment from both Bagdad and Erbil to implement the oil and revenue-sharing agreement of 2 December 2014 and urge further progress in its full implementation. I encourage both sides to seize the momentum and take further steps towards a comprehensive, fair and constitutional solution for all pending issues. I also call upon both sides to enable internally displaced persons to return to their homes. The eventual return to normality in areas liberated from ISIL will, in large part, depend on close coordination and cooperation between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government on all related aspects.

77. It is with appreciation that I have followed the Government's success in improving its relations with its neighbours and other countries in the region, notwithstanding their own differences. The challenges that face Iraq and the region are of a vast and unprecedented nature. They require regional cooperation and support, including political, security and financial support. I call on all members of the international community to continue and to increase support to Iraq and to jointly work towards eradication of the challenges that confront it.

78. As a consequence of the continued activities of ISIL in Iraq, one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world continues to unfold before our eyes. I commend the federal Government and Kurdistan Regional Government for their relief efforts as the needs of millions of displaced persons continue to increase. Additional resources are urgently needed to maintain lifesaving interventions for the more than five million Iraqi people. I call on all partners of Iraq to generously support the new Humanitarian Response Plan to help alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

79. The Government must do all it can to ensure the safety of civilians in these areas and enable the displaced to return voluntarily to a stable and safe environment where their lives and property are protected by law. Establishing law and order in these areas should include the handover of security to civilian police as soon as practicable and the ensuring to civilians of access to humanitarian assistance.

80. I am appalled by the continuing brutality of ISIL and its total disregard for fundamental human rights. I am also dismayed by the ongoing targeting of minority communities and those who oppose, or are suspected by ISIL of opposing, its ideology. The terrible crimes of ISIL, which include crimes that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, have been documented in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council. I remind all parties of the need for solidarity as we, together, fight extremist violent ideologies in the region. I also remind all parties engaged in the fight against ISIL that any military operations must be conducted with the utmost care in order to avoid civilian casualties and with full respect for fundamental human rights and humanitarian law. I welcome Prime Minister al-Abadi's calls to all pro-Government forces fighting ISIL to ensure the protection of civilians and their property. I expect that crimes will be duly investigated so that their perpetrators can be held accountable and justice established.

81. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the people and Government of Iraq in meeting these enormous challenges and moving the country in a positive direction. Given the complex changes on the ground, I have requested that a United Nations strategic assessment for Iraq be carried out in order to identify how best the United Nations system could extend such assistance in the coming

period. The assessment process is ongoing, and I intend to report on its outcome during my next report on UNAMI to the Security Council.

82. I also thank my former Special Representative, Nickolay Mladenov, who completed his tenure on 22 March, for his outstanding efforts in support of the Government and people of Iraq through promoting agreement among all interlocutors on issues of common interest to Iraqi society. I welcome my new Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, who has assumed his duties in Iraq. Finally, I thank all United Nations staff in Iraq for their unfailing and courageous efforts to support Iraq in the present challenging circumstances.